

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4164

FAS/USDA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 3996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, NU

SUBJECT: THE CONTINUING FIGHT AGAINST COFFEE RUST IN NICARAGUA

REF: A) MANAGUA 3515 B) SAN SALVADOR 3850

1. THE NICARAGUAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS INFORMED THE COMMERCIAL SECTION OF THE EMBASSY THAT FROM JULY 18 UNTIL AUGUST 2, NO NEW INCIDENTS OF COFFEE RUST WERE DISCOVERED IN NICARAGUA. (SEE REFTEL) ON AUGUST 2, SEVEN PLANTS WITH 36 "PATCHES" OF RUST WERE DISCOVERED IN THE CARAZO AREA. ON AUGUST 18 THREE PLANTS IN THE SAME AREA WERE FOUND TO BE INFESTED WITH ONE PATCH EACH.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE NUMBER OF TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS ASSIGNED TO THE COFFEE RUST ERADICATION PROGRAM HAS INCREASED FROM 1400 TO 1700, THE MINISTRY ADDED.

3. CURRENTLY, THERE ARE 4,565 MANZANAS (ONE MANZANA EQUALS 1.72 ACRES) OF COFFEE-PRODUCING LAND UNDER STRICT QUARANTINE IN THE CARAZO AREA OF NICARAGUA. IN ADDITION, 12,000 MANZANAS OF LAND SURROUNDING THE QUARANTINED AREA ARE ALSO UNDER SURVEILLANCE. IN ADDI-
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TION, AT LEAST 300 WORKERS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE OTHER COFFEE-PRODUCING AREAS OF NICARAGUA ON THE PACIFIC COAST AND IN THE PROVINCES OF MATAGALPA AND JINOTEGA.

4. AS OF AUGUST 18, 28" OF RAIN HAD FALLEN NEAR THE AREA OF THE QUARANTINED ZONE IN CARAZO. THIS AMOUNT EXCEEDS BY 25 PER CENT THE AVERAGE RAINFALL IN THAT AREA FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS. (COM-

MENT: COFFEE RUST IS MOST LIKELY TO SPREAD DURING THE RAINY SEASON,
AND FOREIGN EXPERTS HAD EARLIER PREDICTED AN "EXPLOSIVE" OUTBREAK
OF THE RUST DURING THIS SEASON.)

5. IN VIEW OF THE RELATIVELY LIMITED NATURE OF THE RECENT OUT-
BREAKS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BELIEVES THAT THE RUST IS "UNDER
CONTROL." EMBASSY TENDS TO CONCUR.
RUBENSTEIN

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Message Attributes

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